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Dated: Dec 12, 2003 Signature: [Signature]
Diane Blevins

Docket No.: 300622000212
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Chaitan KHOSLA, *et al.*

Application No.: 09/870,012

Filed: May 29, 2001

For: METHODS TO PREPARE ANTIBIOTICS
USING MUTANT *SACCHAROPOLYSPORA*
ERYTHRAEA HOST CELLS SUPPLIED WITH
MACROLACTONES

Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: Kathleen M. Kerr

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office Action herein, mailed 1 July 2003, time for response to which was set to expire 1 October 2003. A petition for an extension of time of three (3) months until 1 January 2004 is attached hereto, along with the required fee. Accordingly, this Response is timely filed.

Of the pending claims, claims 19-21, 23 and 24 were rejected and claim 18 remains withdrawn from consideration. Careful consideration has been given to the grounds for rejection, and the following amendment and discussion are offered in response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.